

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. 1. A data storage apparatus comprising:
 - 2 an interface configured to receive digital data; and
 - 3 a data processor communicatively coupled to the interface and being configured to
 - 4 automatically receive digital data from the interface and cause the digital
 - 5 data to be stored to a write-once-read-many (WORM) storage device.
1. 2. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a WORM storage device.
1. 3. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further
- 2 configured to generate one or more indexes for data stored to the WORM storage
- 3 device.
1. 4. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further
- 2 configured to generate meta data that describes one or more attributes of the data
- 3 stored to the WORM storage device.
1. 5. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data processor is further
- 2 configured to
- 3 process a search query, and
- 4 in response to processing the search query, generate data that identifies data stored
- 5 on the WORM storage device that satisfies the search query.
1. 6. The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further
- 2 configured to process the search query against one or more indexes generated by
- 3 the data processor.
1. 7. The apparatus as recited in Claim 4, wherein the data processor is further
- 2 configured to automatically process the search query according to a set of one or
- 3 more time criteria.
1. 8. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes facsimile
- 2 data.

- 1 9. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes electronic
2 document data.
- 1 10. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein the digital data includes printer data.
- 1 11. The apparatus as recited in Claim 1, wherein:
2 the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and
3 the data processor is further configured to cause a label to be applied to the
4 WORM optical medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes
5 of the data.
- 1 12. A method for storing data comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
2 receiving digital data to be stored; and
3 automatically causing the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many
4 (WORM) storage device without human intervention.
- 1 13. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating one or more
2 indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 14. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising generating meta data that
2 describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 15. The method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:
2 receiving a search query,
3 processing the search query, and
4 generating data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that
5 satisfies the search query.
- 1 16. The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising processing the search
2 query against one or more indexes.
- 1 17. The method as recited in Claim 15, further comprising automatically processing
2 the search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.
- 1 18. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes facsimile
2 data.

- 1 19. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes electronic
- 2 document data.
- 1 20. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the digital data includes printer data.
- 1 21. The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein:
2 the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and
3 the method further comprises causing a label to be applied to the WORM optical
4 medium, wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.
- 1 22. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more
2 instructions for storing data, the one or more sequences of one or more
3 instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more
4 processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5 receive digital data to be stored; and
6 automatically cause the digital data to be stored to a write-once-read-many
7 (WORM) storage device without human intervention.
- 1 23. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate one or more
4 indexes for data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 24. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate meta data that
4 describes one or more attributes of the data stored to the WORM storage device.
- 1 25. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, further comprising one or
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to:
4 receive a search query,
5 process the search query, and

6 generate data that identifies data stored on the WORM storage device that satisfies
7 the search query.

1 26. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to process the search query
4 against one or more indexes.

1 27. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 25, further comprising one or
2 more sequences of additional instructions which, when executed by the one or
3 more processors, cause the one or more processors to automatically process the
4 search query according to a set of one or more time criteria.

1 28. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data
2 includes facsimile data.

1 29. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data
2 includes electronic document data.

1 30. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein the digital data
2 includes printer data.

1 31. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein:
2 the data is stored on an WORM optical medium, and
3 the further comprising one or more sequences of additional instructions which,
4 when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more
5 processors to cause a label to be applied to the WORM optical medium,
6 wherein the label specifies one or more attributes of the data.